

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: CSU AND SPD TRADE INSULTS AND INNUENDO

1. SUMMARY. IN WAKE OF SEVERAL SPD ATTACKS AGAINST CSU
CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS, AUGUST 5, 1978, ISSUE OF
CSU ORGAN "BAYERNKURIER" LAUNCHED COUNTERATTACK, CALLING
BAVARIAN SPD LAND DISTRICT A COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION
AND SUGGESTING SPD INVESTIGATE WHY CHANCELLOR HELMUT
SCHMIDT WAS SELECTED AS SPECTATOR AT TRIAL OF JULY 20,
1944, DEFENDANTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AUTHOR BERNT ENGELMANN RECENTLY ACCUSED CSU CHAIRMAN
STRAUSS OF HAVING SERVED AS IDEOLOGICAL LEAD OFFICER
(OFFIZIER FUER WEHRGEISTIGE FUEHRUNG) DURING WWII,
INDIRECTLY INVITING STRAUSS TO SUE HIM AS BADEN-
WUERTTEMBERG MINISTER-PRESIDENT FILBINGER HAS SUED
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HOCHHUTH. STRAUSS, HOWEVER, IN JULY 29 SPEECH IN KRONACH
OPENLY ADMITTED THAT HE HELD THAT POSITION FOR SOME TIME,
ADDING THAT HE WOULD NOT GIVE ANYONE CHANCE TO ATTACH
"BROWN" (NAZI) PAST TO HIM. AT SAME TIME, PRESSEDIENST
DEMOKRATISCHE INITIATIVE (PDI) PUBLISHED A BROCHURE
ATTACKING STRAUSS, WRITTEN BY MUNICH SPD LANDTAG DEPUTY
KLAUS WARNECKE, WITH INTRODUCTION BY DEPUTY SPD LAND

CHAIRMAN DR. JUERGEN BOEDDRICH. NOTING THAT SPD POLITICIANS AND LAND-LEVEL LEADERS WRITE FOR PDI, BAYERNKURIER REACHES "COMPELLING CONCLUSION THAT THE BAVARIAN SPD IS A COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION."
(COMMENT: ACCORDING TO DECISION OF STUTTGART "OBERLANDEGERICHTN" PDI CAN BE CALLED A COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION (KOMMUNISTISCHE TARNORGANIZATION); A BERLIN COURT HAS PERMITTED ITS BEING LABELED "CRYPTO-COMMUNIST." END COMMENT)

3. THE BAYERNKURIER ALSO CALLS ON "SELF-APPOINTED PDI JUDGE" TO INVESTIGATE WHY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT RECEIVED PRIVILEGED OPPORTUNITY AS AN AIR FORCE OFFICER TO ATTEND THE COURT TRIAL OF CONSPIRATORS OF 20TH JULY 1944 BEFORE "VOLKSGERICHTSHOF," NOTING THAT CHIEF JUDGE ROLAND FREISLER HAD STATED THAT ALL SPECTATORS PRESENT ATTENDED THE TRIAL ON THE BASIS OF THEIR FUNCTIONS IN GOVERNMENT, NAZI PARTY OR ARMED FORCES. BAYERNKURIER ALSO CALLS ON ENGELMANN AND HIS FRIENDS TO INVESTIGATE FORMER RANKS AND ACTIVITIES OF DGB FEDERAL CHAIRMAN HEINZ OSKAR VETTER AND ROLE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF "FORMER COMMUNIST TOP FUNCTIONARY HERBERT WEHNER" IN PREPARATION OF THE HITLER-STALIN PACT.

4. SPD PRESS SPEAKER WALTER REITZNER HAS TOLD CONGEN THAT SPD HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO SUE BAYERNKURIER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR ALLEGATION THAT IT IS COMMUNIST FRONT, BUT IN HIS OPINION, MATTER SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO COURT. REITZNER ALSO COMPLAINED THAT IN CSU-SPD DISPUTES, PRESS COVERED ONLY CSU STATEMENTS.

5. COMMENT. PDI, AN ORGANIZATION OF LEFTIST AUTHORS AND JOURNALISTS, HAS EXISTED IN BAVARIA FOR SEVERAL YEARS, SPECIALIZING IN ATTACKS ON WHAT IT CALLS FASCIST PERSONALITIES AND FASCIST-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES. CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS IS ONE OF ITS FAVORITE TARGETS. WHILE THE STRAUSS COUNTERATTACK AGAINST IMPLICATIONS OF NAZI-ISM IS BOTH PREDICTABLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE, USE OF SIMILAR INNUENDO AGAINST SCHMIDT STRIKES US AS UNWISE, WITH HIGH DEGREE OF "BACKLASH" POTENTIAL. SPD COURT ACTION ON BASIS OF BAYERNKURIER ARTICLE WOULD ALSO SEEM ILL-ADVISED, AND WE DO NOT EXPECT IT TO MATERIALIZE.
FRISBIE

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